However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity it is not possible to say whether the international smuggling syndicates operating out of Dubai have switched over from gold to silver smuggling. The value and quantity of silver seized in the State of Gujarat over the last 3 years and in 1992 especially since March 1, 1992 are given in the table below and show substantial seizures after March, 1, 1992. This could be due to increase in smuggling on account of high domestic prices of silver and substantially lower international prices as well as better anti-smuggling efforts.

Year	*Quanity seized (in M. Ts.)*	*Value (Rs. in crores)*
1989	6.3	4.2
1990	44.4	30.7
1991*	36.8	26.0
1992* (Jan. & Feb)	7.9	6.5
Since 1.3.1992*	16.10	12.9

*Figures are provisional.

The Customs authorities are vigilant against smuggling including that of silver. Intelligence is targeted against such smuggling. The field formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, firearms, etc. Sophisticated equipment such as night vision binoculars, X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors, etc. are being increasingly used Close co-ordination is also being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention smuggling including that of silver.

[*Translation*]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Employees of Bombay Port Trust

6871. SHRI VILASRAO NAGATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a voluntary retirement scheme for the employees of Bombay Port Trust and other public sector undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Voluntary Retirement Scheme for all port Trust (including Bombay Port Thrust), Dock Labour Boards and Public Sector Undertakings under this Ministry has been issued.

(b) The details are:–

(i) An employee who has completed 10 years' of service or completed 40 years of age may seek voluntary

retirement by a written request.

(ii) The Port Trusts Dock Labour Boards and Public Sector Undertakings will have right not to grant voluntary retirement for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(iii) The terminal payments available to an employee who seeks voluntary retirement would be:–

(1) the balance in his Provident Fund Account payable as per the GPF/CPF regulations applicable to him;

(2) cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave as per the rules of the Port Trust/Dock Labour Board/Public Sector Undertaking;

(3) gratuity as per Gratuity Act or the gratuity scheme applicable to the employee;

(4) one month's/three months' notice pay (as per the conditions of services applicable to him).

(5) pension as per the rules of the Port Trust/Dock Labour Board/ Public Sector Undertaking.

(iv) In addition, an employee whose request for voluntary retirement is accepted would also be entitled to an ex-gratia payment equivalent to 1-1/2 months' emoluments (Pay + DA) for each completed year of service or the discounted value of the emoluments (at 12% rate of discount) that would have become payable for the balance months of service left, whichever is less.

(v) In addition, the employee and his family would also the entitled to travel by the entitled class to the place where he intends settling down.

(c) The scheme are to be implemented by the organisations after obtaining board resolutions from their respective boards and then obtaining Government approval.

[*English*]

Sick Textile Mills

6872. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of sick textile mills in Mumbai in respect of which the Government have received proposed to run the mills by the worker's cooperatives, together with the dates on which the proposal were received;

(b) the present position of each proposals; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the re-starting of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). A Statement is attached.

(c). Government would welcome any proposals for setting up Worker's Cooperatives to run Sick Textile Mills.